dependences. An earlier and favorable action allowing such claims is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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CLEAN COPY OF SUBSTITUTE CLAIMS 11 – 21

11/ An extrudable material suitable for making thin films, the material including :

a thermoplastic polymer phase containing at least one thermoplastic olefin polymer, and

a content of filler lying in the range 25% to 65% by weight of the composition,

said material having a tensile strength lying in the range 6 MPa to 20 MPa and an amount of extension at breakage lying in the range 50% to 300%.

12/ A material according to claim 11, having a hardness lying in the range 35 to 55 Shore D.

13/ A material according to claim 11, wherein said thermoplastic olefin polymer is selected from the group consisting of:

- PE: polyethylene;
- PP: polypropylene;
- EPR: ethylene propylene rubber;
- EPDM: ethylene propylene diene monomer;
- EVA: copolymers of ethylene and lower alkyl acetates;
- EBA: copolymers of ethylene and lower alkyl acrylates;
- EEA: ethylene ethyl acrylate;
- EMA: ethylene methyl acrylate;
- VLDPE: very low density polyethylene;
- acrylic acid or maleic anhydride grafted polymers;
- PVC: polyvinyl chloride; and
- mixtures and copolymers thereof.

14/ A material according to claim 11, wherein the filler is selected from the group constituted by hydrated or non hydrated alumina, chalk, kaolin, talc, silicon, magnesium hydroxide, and mixtures thereof.

15/ A material according to claim 11, wherein:

the thermoplastic olefin polymer is an ethylene copolymer selected from the group consisting of copolymers of ethylene and lower alkyl acetates having no more than 30% vinyl acetate comonomer, EBA, ethylene ethyl acrylate, ethylene methyl acrylate and mixtures thereof, and

said thermoplastic polymer phase further comprises at least one polymer selected from the group consisting of polyethylene; polypropylene; ethylene propylene rubber; ethylene propylene diene monomer; very low density polyethylene (VDPE);acrylic acid or maleic anhydride grafted polymers;and polyvinyl chloride.

16/ A material according to claim 15, devoid of crosslinking agents, comprising:

· 50 parts of said polyethylene having specific gravity of 0.92 and a melt flow index at 190° under 21.6 N of 1.8 g/10 min;

· 50 parts of said EVA copolymer containing 18% vinyl acetate; and

· 130 parts alumina hydrate.

17/ A material according to claim 15, comprising, in addition to a minor amount of lubricant and additives:

· 50 parts of polyethylene having specific gravity of 0.92 with a melt flow index at 190° under 21.6 N of 1.8 g/10 min;

· 50 parts EVA copolymer containing 18% vinyl acetate; and

· 130 parts calcium carbonate.

18/ An extrudable material suitable for making thin films, the material including:

a thermoplastic polymer phase containing at least one ethylene copolymer, and

a content of filler lying in the range 25% to 65% by weight of the composition,

said material having a tensile strength lying in the range 6 MPa to 20 MPa and an amount of extension at breakage lying in the range 50% to 300%.

19/ An extrudable material according to claim 18, wherein:

said ethylene copolymer is selected from the group consisting of ethylene - lower alkyl acetate copolymer, ethylene - lower alkyl acrylate copolymer, and mixtures thereof, and

said thermoplastic polymer phase further comprises at least one polymer selected from the group consisting of polyethylene; polypropylene; ethylene propylene rubber; ethylene propylene diene monomer; very low density polyethylene (VDPE);acrylic acid or maleic anhydride grafted polymers; polyvinyl chloride; and mixtures thereof/

20/ An extrudable material according to claim 18, wherein said ethylene copolymer has a monomer content not exceeding 30%.

21/ An optical fiber micromodule comprising:

a bundle of optical fibers each having a sheath, and

a film extruded over said bundle and surrounding said bundle, said film being of a material comprising

a polymer phase including at least a thermoplastic ethylene polymer, and

at least a filler content lying in the range 25% to 65% by weight of the composition,

said film of said material having a tensile strength lying in the range 6 MPa to 20 MPa and an amont of extension at rupture lying in the range 50% to 300%.